payment received after pay by date, which is 21 days in case of landline and 15 days in case of mobile connection. Disconnection is resorted to 14 days after Pay by date, in case of landline telephone and 6 days after Pay by date, in case of mobile connection.

(b) Number of landline and mobile telephones not disconnected and arrears due and recovered is as below:

Landline: (Amount in thousands of rupees)

Period	No. of cases	Amount Outstanding	Amount recovered	Amount to be recovered
>6 months	128	2735	2215	520
>1 year	125	2946	2271	675
>2 years	90	2472	1964	508
>3 years	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

To maintain rapport with the State and Centrai Govemment departments specially Law and Order, Revenue Authorities and VIP customer, telephones were not disconnected.

Only one mobile connection was allowed to work without interruption of service beyond one year and amount involved is Rs. 8918/- where as credit limit allowed is Rs. 2000/-. The service was not disconnected due to dispute by the customer. Action has since been taken.

No amount was spent on advocate charges.

(c) Outstanding cases are under constant pursuit for recovery. No error is committed by any official, as the telephones were not disconnected to maintain rapport with State and Central Govemment departments and VIP customers.

Setting up of one lakh common service centres

1659. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently approved a plan to set up 1 lakh common service centres to cater to the needs such as Internet, e-mail, telemedicine, online education, e-governance, etc., in five lakh villages in the next two years;

(b) if so, the number of villages identified for CSC in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a part of National e-governance Action Plan;

(d) the amount that is required to set up 1 lakh CSC in the country; and

(e) from where the resources are pooled to meet this expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Government has approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. The Scheme has been approved in September 2006. These centers would provide government and private services at the doorstep of the citizen. The CSCs would be established in a ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 census villages in a State.

(b) As per the CSC guidelines (which are accessible at www.mit.gov.in) every state is eligible to set up 1 CSC for 6 Census villages. As per this norm, Andhra Pradesh would be eligible to set up 4687 CSCs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (e) The Scheme has been approved at a total cost of Rs. 5742 crores over 4 years, of which the Government of India is estimated to contribute Rs. 856 crores and the State Governments Rs. 793 crores. The balance resources would be mobilized from the private sector. The Scheme is to be implemented through a Public Private Partnership.

Extension of STP scheme to tier-ll and tier-Hi cities

1660. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by his Ministry to extend the STP Scheme to tier-ll and tier-lll cities in the country;

(b) the details of STPs in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any assessment has also been made, in view of vast number of SEZs coming into the country, the relevance of STP scheme itself;